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**Testimony in Support of
S.B. No. 318, 'An Act Concerning Private School Transportation'**

Before the Education Committee

March 2, 2016

As a parent of two students at St. Cecilia School in Stamford, CT, I support S.B. No. 318.

St. Cecilia provides students with a challenging, classical education. They create a caring and supporting environment for all students. Creative and critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and a love of learning are our major guideposts of the school.

It is so important that we make Catholic Schools available to all children, especially in light of declining demographics in our state and recent school closures.

Bus transportation helps my family tremendously. We use the Stamford buses both to and from school every day. This helps with traffic congestion between my home and the school and provides a safe mode for my children to get to school. I cannot imagine the line of cars that will back up on Newfield Avenue if we all had to drive our children to school.

Allowing a reimbursement to towns who voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town will help my school. It is crucial to keep our urban schools open and accessible to students whose schools have closed in neighboring towns.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support S.B. No. 318.

Sincerely,

Christine Walsh